# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3342
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
STANDARD OF PADDY IN PUNJAB
BASUDEB ACHARIA

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the observation made by the Food Corporation of India Chief that 80 per cent of Punjab's paddy was sub- standard; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): The Chairman of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) had made certain remarks regarding the extent of damage to paddy in Punjab based on visual inspection of the extent of discolourisation in the paddy stocks lying in the mandies on the date of his visit in October 2000. The samples collected by the central team deputed to Punjab were analysed in the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL), New Delhi.The CGAL results indicated that 95 percent of the samples were found to be exceeding Fair Average Quality (FAQ) limit of 3 per cent specified by the Government with regard to damaged/discoloured grains.

In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to enable the procuring agencies to purchase paddy, the Government has allowed procurement of paddy with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains upto maximum limit of 8 per cent, instead of 3 per cent provided in Uniform Specifications for Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01 at minimum support price (MSP) for the State of Punjab.